

Skull: greatest breadth 26.5; tip of nasals to angle behind postorbital processes 18.8; least interorbital breadth 7.2; palate length from gnathion 19.5; width outside last molars 12.2; front of canine to back of last molar 14.3.

Hab. Milne Bay, S.E. New Guinea.

Type B.M. no. 99.12.3.1. Collected 5th April, 1899, by Mr. A. S. Meek.

This fine species may be readily distinguished from its ally *C. major* by its larger size, striking coloration, and (if that organ is perfect) shorter tail. Like that species, it no doubt belongs to the subgenus "*Bdelygma*," separated by Dr. Matschie from the typical *Cephalotes*; but I confess I can see no sufficient reason for subdividing the genus. The second lower premolar in some specimens of *C. cephalotes* has the second cusp said by Dr. Matschie to be characteristic of *Bdelygma*.

It may also be noted that of specimens referred to *C. cephalotes* those from Celebes, Amboina, and Timor Laut have markedly larger skulls and longer forearms than those of the rest of the Papuan subregion. The smaller form should apparently be distinguished under the name of *C. albiventer*, Gray. Of this latter the Museum possesses examples from Morty Island (type), Admiralty Islands, Key Islands, British New Guinea, and Cape York. Whether its range overlaps that of the larger *C. cephalotes* remains to be proved.

With the *Cephalotes* Mr. Meek has sent home a number of specimens of *Pipistrellus papuanus*, Pet., and these prove that the species is subject to the peculiar form of erythrism already described in several other bats, some of the specimens being bright rufous, while others are dark brown.

Another species discovered by the same collector, *Emballonura Meeki*, Thos., found by him in the Trobriand Islands, has recently turned up in a somewhat distant locality, namely in the Key Islands, where it occurs in the same collection as the remarkable *Rhinolophus achilles* described in the last number of the 'Annals.'

XXVII.—*Descriptions of new Neotropical Mammals.*
By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

Conepatus zorilla, sp. n.

Size medium, about as in *C. chilensis*, smaller than in *C. quitensis*. Fur comparatively very short, fine, glossy, almost without underfur, quite different to the long, coarse,

shaggy hair of most species of the genus; longest hairs of back seldom attaining an inch in length. Hairs of face and head directed backwards as far as a line across the occiput, where there is a distinct "meeting ridge"; from this point to the withers and on the sides of the neck they are directed forwards; on the withers there are no very distinct whorls*, the change of direction to the backwardly-pointing body-hairs being rather gradual. General colour deep brownish black. Marking of the usual furcate type; lateral white lines (which are more truly white and less cream-coloured than usual) about half an inch in breadth in front of the withers, then broadening to about an inch to the loins, where they die away into narrow lines of isolated white hairs leading towards but not on to the top of the base of the tail. Median black line commencing on the occiput about half an inch in front of the transverse crest, evenly broadening backwards, about three fourths of an inch broad on the neck, and just over 2 inches broad at its widest point in the middle of the back. Terminal half of tail grizzled, the under hairs black, the longer ones, which may attain 3 inches in length, white.

Skull rather narrow, with widely expanded zygomata. Teeth of medium size.

Dimensions of the type (measured in flesh):—

Head and body 400 millim.; tail 210, including terminal tuft 274; hind foot (s. u.) 67; ear 31.

Skull: basal length 69.5; occipito-gnathic length in middle line 80.5; greatest zygomatic breadth 51.4; least breadth above meatus 38.3; greatest breadth behind meatus 42.2; least intertemporal breadth 19; palate length from gnathion 33. Outer length of upper carnassial 7.1; greatest diameter of upper molar 8.7; length of lower carnassial 8.9.

Hab. Eten, Peru. Alt. 15 m. "Among sand-dunes."

Type. Male. Original number 601. Collected 22nd September, 1899, by Perry O. Simons.

This handsome animal is evidently the skunk of the low hot desert regions along the coast of Northern Peru, and is consequently distinguished by its unusually short thin pelage, the fur being barely half the length of that of the allied species and the underfur practically absent. In this respect and in general appearance it has unusual resemblance to the African zorilles. As was the case with the fox discovered by Mr. Simons, it is probably a northern representative of the Chilian form, but is clearly too different to bear the same name.

* There is a sort of whorl on one side, but this appears to be due to an unfortunate crease in the skin just at this point.

Proechimys * *rosa*, sp. n.

Size about as in *P. chrysaolus*, Thos. Back coarsely spinous, sides rather less so, rump and outer sides of limbs without spines; spines of back about 20 millim. long (without terminal bristles) by 1·2 millim. wide. General colour rather similar to that of *P. chrysaolus* and equally heavily black-lined, but more fulvous and less rufous, the hairs of the back with deep fulvous subterminal and black terminal bands. Forehead, cheeks, and sides of neck greyer. Rump and hips brownish fulvous. Under surface pure white. Outer sides of arms and legs brownish, inner sides white; upper surface of hands and feet pale brownish, becoming white at the bases of the toes. Tail fairly well haired, black above, dull whitish below.

Skull large and heavily built; nasals very long, reaching back past the front edge of the orbit, narrow, evenly tapering backwards; supraorbital edges broadly ridged, the ridges evenly continuous posteriorly with those that run forwards from the outer corners of the interparietal; molars narrow vertically; hamular processes of pterygoids broad and spatulate; bullæ rather small.

Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh by collector):—

Head and body 235 millim.; tail 168; hind foot (s. u.) 52; ear 27.

Skull: greatest length 60; basilar length 43·5; greatest breadth 28·2; nasals 22·6 × 7·1; interorbital breadth 12·6; greatest breadth across temporal ridges 22·3; height of molar in centre 3·3; palate length 21; diastema 13·3; palatal foramina 5 × 3·3; breadth of hamular processes 2·4; breadth between bullæ on basilar suture 3·6; length of upper molar series 9·5.

Hab. Santa Rosa, S.W. Ecuador. Alt. 10 m.

Type. Male. B.M. no. O. 1. 1. 40. Original number 434. Collected 29th June, 1899, by Mr. Perry O. Simons. Three specimens.

Mr. Simons obtained six specimens of *Proechimys* at Santa Rosa, and these prove to belong to two species—one paler, with white feet, broader nasals, and broader malars, which appears to belong to the group containing *P. semispinosus*, Tomes, and *P. decumanus*, Thos., to the former of which I provisionally refer it; and the second, now described, darker coloured and with brownish feet, evidently most nearly allied to *P. chrysaolus*. From that animal, whose habitat is

* *Echimus*, auctorum. See Allen, Bull. Am. Mus. xii. p. 257 (1899).

Bogota, it is distinguishable by its more fulvous colour, more uniformly brownish feet, longer and narrower nasals, connected parietal ridges, and broader hamular processes. It is also allied to the Central-American species *P. centralis*, to the dark form of which (subsp. *chiriquinus*) it bears considerable external resemblance, though its long narrow nasals form a readily distinguishing mark.

Proechimys centralis pauamensis, subsp. n.

Closely similar to *P. c. typicus* in size and general coloration, but with the head and fore-quarters greyish brown, darker in the middle line, paler on the cheeks and sides of neck, but on both very different to the rich rufous of the back. In *typicus* the forehead and cheeks are of the same rufous hue as the body. Limbs also greyer than the back. Upper surface of hind feet uniformly brown or with a faint lighter patch on the metatarsus.

Skull about as in *typicus*, but the nasals are rather more produced posteriorly, and in all the examples there is a slight irregularity in the posterior part of the parietal ridges. Hamular processes broad and spatulate.

Dimensions of the type (measured in flesh by collector):—

Head and body 297 millim.; tail 178; hind foot (s. u.) 49, (c. u.) 54; ear 26.

Skull: basilar length 43; greatest breadth 29; nasals 24×6.5 ; interorbital breadth 13.2; greatest breadth on ridges 23.6; length of upper molar series 8.9.

Hab. Panama. Type from the "Savanna near Panama"; others from Pocoumé, Panama.

Type. Male. Original number 10. Collected 1st March, 1899, by E. André. Five specimens examined.

Proechimys centralis chiriquinus, subsp. n.

General colour much darker than in *P. c. typicus* and *panamensis*, the centre of the back being more spinous than usual, and the dark tips to the spines consequently predominating over the rufous of the hairs. Rump coarsely haired, similar in colour to the rest of the back. Face dark, as in *panamensis*, sides more greyish or greyish brown. Spines of back numerous, coarse, about 1.5 millim. broad and 22 millim. in length. Feet brown, with a slight metatarsal lightening.

Skull with a broader and heavier muzzle than in the other subspecies; nasals short and broad; supraorbital edges very broadly ridged, the ridges running backwards across the

parietals, but apparently not coalescing with those that run forwards from the outer corners of the interparietal. Hamular processes spatulate, much broader than those of *E. chrysæolus*.

Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh by collector):—

Head and body 300 millim.; tail 150; hind foot (s. u.) 51, (c. u.) 55; ear 14.

Skull: bregma to nasal tip 42; greatest breadth 31; nasals 23.5×7.5 ; interorbital breadth 15.8; greatest breadth on ridges 25; palate length from hensenion 23; diastema 14.2; palatal foramina 6.5×3.7 ; length of upper molar series 9.2.

Hab. Bogava, Chiriqui, N.W. Panama. Alt. 250 m.

Type. Male. Original number 6. Collected 3rd September, 1898, by Mr. H. J. Watson. Six specimens examined.

The very dark colour of this *Echimys* will readily distinguish it from the other Central-American forms.

Marmosa cauca, sp. n.

Allied to *M. incana*, Lund, and *M. fuscata*, Thos., but smaller than the first and paler-coloured than the second.

Size about as in *M. fuscata*. Fur soft, short, and close, about 7–8 millim. long on the back. General colour above uniform soft fawn-grey, not unlike that of *M. incana*, but rather more fawny, and also more uniform, less wavy; centre of face rather paler than back; black eye-patch present above and below (though not behind) the eye, extending forwards to the roots of the whiskers; its edges not sharply defined. Ears naked, rather small as compared with the large ears of the allied species, their anterior bases without marked projection. Under surface pale yellowish white, the hairs of chin, throat, chest, and a narrow line down belly of this colour to their bases, those of the sides of the belly slaty for two thirds of their length. Outer sides of limbs like back, inner sides like sides of belly; hands and feet thinly haired, dull whitish above, wrists and ankles brown. Tail as in the allied species, rather shorter, but doubtfully perfect in the single specimen.

Skull on the whole very similar in general shape to that of *M. incana*, and therefore quite different to that of all the species of the *M. murina* group. Nasals broadened posteriorly, their extension behind the broad part not so elongated as in *M. incana*. Supraorbital region long, narrow, nearly parallel-sided, flattened above, its edges rounded, without ridges or processes. Anterior palatal foramina extending to

the level of the base of the canine; posterior palatal vacuities opposite the molars and last two premolars*. Molars small and delicate.

Dimensions of the type (measured by collector in the flesh):—

Head and body 168 millim.; tail 120; hind foot 25; ear 18.

Skull: extreme length 35; greatest breadth 17.8; nasals 16×4.2 ; interorbital breadth 6.3; palate length from hensenion 17.5; breadth at corners of $m.^2$ 10; palatal foramina, length 3.2; combined lengths of $pm.^4$ and $ms.^{1-2}$ ($ms.^{1-3}$ of Catalogue) 5.6.

Hab. Rio Cauqueta, a tributary of the Cauca, near Cali, Colombia. Alt. 1000 m.

Type. Male. B.M. no. 99.9.6.51. Original number 470. Collected August 1897 by J. H. Batty.

This species is evidently a Colombian representative of the Brazilian *M. incana* and the Venezuelan *M. fuscata*, but may be readily distinguished from either of them by the characters above given. The three form a special group characterized by their small brain-cases and long narrow unridged interorbital regions.

XXVIII.—*The Generic Name Thylacomys.*

By EDGAR R. WAITE, F.L.S.

MR. T. S. PALMER'S paper "On *Thylacomys*, Owen" †, recalls my note, published the previous year ‡, on the spelling of this name, and on its possibly jeopardizing a term applied by myself to a new genus of Australian rodents §. In this note I mentioned that, not having access to the work in which the name originally occurred—namely, Blyth, in Cuvier's 'Animal Kingdom,' 1840, p. 104,—I had referred to the editions of 1849 (p. 104) and 1863 (p. 92), but there found the spelling to be *Thalacomys*, not *Thylacomys*. As a result of my note I almost expected that some zoologist in London to whom the 1840 edition is available would have cleared up the matter; but I have not seen any further reference to it.

* Accepting the cheek-tooth formula as four premolars and three molars, the third of the premolars being the " $p.^4$ " of the Catalogue, and being the only tooth of the "permanent" series (see Lydekker, P. Z. S. 1898).

† Palmer, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (7) iv., Oct. 1899, p. 300.

‡ Waite, *loc. cit.* (7) ii., Aug. 1898, p. 196.

§ Waite, Proc. Roy. Soc. Vict. (n. s.) x. 1898, p. 121.